

## CLAIMS

What is claimed as being new and desired to be protected by LETTERS PATENT of the United States is as follows:

1. A purse security system 110 for maintaining a purse locked until the presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

a purse 62 with a first section 116 and a second section 118, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside 120, 122 and an outside 124, 126;

a touch pad 130 for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor 134 with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid 138 on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger 140 reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end 142; and

a latch 146 on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess 148 therein facing the first section and an aperture 150 in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly 154 for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region 166 on the outside of the second section and a finger 158 extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end 160 removably positionable in the recess of the latch, the finger being securely retained within the recess of the latch to maintain the purse locked in the closed orientation when the latch and solenoid are in the rest position but with the finger being readily removable from the recess and latch to allow the purse to assume the open orientation when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

2. A suitcase security system 170 for maintaining a suitcase locked until the presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

a suitcase 172 with a first section 116 and a second section 118, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside 120, 122 and an outside 124, 126;

a touch pad 130 for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor 134 with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid 138 on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger 140 reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end 142;

a latch 146 on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess 148 therein facing the first section and an aperture 150 in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly 154 for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region 156 on the outside of the second section and a finger 158 extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end 160 removably positionable in the recess of the latch; and

a secondary release assembly 174 including a slider 176 on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the

finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable concurrently for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the slider is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

3. An attache case security system 180 for maintaining an attache case locked until the presentation of a fingerprint of an approved user comprising, in combination:

an attache case 182 with a first section 116 and a second section 118, the sections movable between a closed orientation for the secure maintenance of objects there within and an open orientation for adding and removing objects therefrom, each section having an inside 120, 122 and an outside 124, 126;

a touch pad 130 for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section adapted to removably receive a fingerprint of a user;

a sensor 134 with at least one pre-stored fingerprint on the inside of the first portion operatively coupled to the touch pad and adapted to generate a signal when a fingerprint of the user on the touch pad matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor;

a solenoid 138 on the inside of the first section operatively coupled to the sensor, the solenoid having a plunger 140 reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor so long as a fingerprint of

a user is on the touch pad which matches a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor, the plunger having a remote end 142;

a latch 146 on the inside of the first section attached to the remote end of the plunger for reciprocation there with, the latch having a recess 148 therein facing the first section and an aperture 150 in the first section aligned with the recess;

a release assembly 154 for coupling purposes attached to the second section, the release assembly having an exterior region 156 on the outside of the second section and a finger 158 extending inwardly of the inside of the second section through the aperture with an enlarged end 160 removably positionable in the recess of the latch;

a supplemental release assembly 184 including a button 186 on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the button is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor; and

a timer 188 operatively coupled to the solenoid to hold the plunger retracted for a predetermined period of time to allow a user to depress the button after a matching fingerprint of a user has been removed from the touch pad.

4. A container security system comprising:

a container with a first section and a second section;  
a touch pad for fingerprint identification attached to the outside of the first section;  
a sensor with at least one pre-stored fingerprint operatively coupled to the touch pad;  
a solenoid coupled to the sensor and having a plunger reciprocable from a rest position to a withdrawn position in response to a signal from the sensor;  
a latch attached to the remote end of the plunger having a recess therein;  
a release assembly coupled to the second section with a finger removably positionable in the recess to maintain the container locked in a closed orientation but with the finger being readily removable from the recess to allow the container security system to assume an open orientation when the latch and plunger are reciprocated in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

5. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is a purse.

6. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is a suitcase.

7. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the container is an attache case.

8. The system as set forth in claim 4 and further including

a secondary release assembly 174 including a slider 176 on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable concurrently for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the slider is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor.

9. The system as set forth in claim 4 and further including:

a supplemental release assembly 184 including a button 186 on the outside of the second section operatively coupled to the finger, the release assembly and the secondary release assembly operable for allowing separation of the finger from the recess and latch when the button is depressed by a user and when the latch and plunger are reciprocated to the withdrawn position in response to a fingerprint of a user on the touch pad matching a pre-stored fingerprint in the sensor; and

a timer 188 operatively coupled to the solenoid to hold the plunger retracted for a predetermined period of time to allow a user to depress the button after a matching fingerprint of a user has been removed from the touch pad.